

(c) to (e) No, the Group of Ministers has not taken such a decision. It was decided in the meeting of the Group of Ministers constituted to oversee the matters related to Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, held on 11th May, 2005, that the Government of MP. would furnish detailed information with related data on morbidity, mortality and other parameters required for declaring the remaining 20 wards also as gas affected. This would be analyzed and the approximate requirement of additional funds worked out in consultation with the Office of the Welfare Commissioner. The matter would then be placed before the Prime Minister, through the Chairman of the GoM. In compliance with the decision taken by the GoM, the Government of MP was requested to furnish the detailed information with relevant data *vide* this Department's letter dated 16th June, 2005 followed by subsequent reminders. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has not furnished the desired information, as yet.

Non-availability of fertilizers to Uttar Pradesh farmers

†3227. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that in some districts of Uttar Pradesh, fertilizers are not available to the farmers on time; and

(b) if so, the detailed thereof and the measures taken for timely availability of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Movement and distribution of only 50% of the indigenous production of urea is under the control of the Government. All other fertilizers *viz.*, DAP and MOP etc. are decontrolled fertilizers and the availability of these fertilizers depends upon the market forces of demand and supply. During Rabi 2006-07, the availability of urea in Uttar Pradesh was more than the assessed demand. Distribution and movement of fertilizers within the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

(b) The Government has approved the New Pricing Scheme (NPS) Stage III on 1.02.2007 to be implemented with effect from 1.10.2006. Under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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the NPS III, the movement of urea will be monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system. The subsidy on urea will be paid only when urea reaches the district. Further, the Department will ensure pre-positioning of urea in each district in adequate quantities to obviate the possibility of shortages and is also mandated to operate a buffer stock through the State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies. Further, the freight reimbursement to urea units will now be on actual rail and road leads and will help in ensuring availability of urea in all parts of the country.

As far as decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are concerned, subsidy is released on sale of fertilizers. The responsibility of meeting the full requirement of decontrolled fertilizers in any State is with the concerned State Governments. State Governments have been advised to identify at least one State Institutional Agency, which would deal with the required quantities of decontrolled fertilizers. Buffer stocking of decontrolled fertilizers by the Government of India would be made only to meet any emergent requirement.

Closed pharma units

3228. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pharma industries closed during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether this has adversely affected the availability of cheaper drugs and medicines for common man in the country; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to overcome the crisis in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reported that information about closure of Pharma units State-wise is not centrally maintained. However, Pharma companies, including SSI units are required to comply with the requirements of Schedule 'M' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 with effect from 1st July, 2005.